REMARKS

The Examiner's action and the continued rejection of all claims under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirovano et al et al in view of Yamagishi have been carefully considered and the application has been amended accordingly. Claims 27-31 were pending in the instant application at the time of the office action. Claims 1-26 were previously cancelled and claims 32-39 were withdrawn from consideration. The present amendment rewrites claims 27 and 39 and cancels claims 28 and 32-38. Thus, claims 27, 29-31 and 39 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been introduced into the application by the rewriting of claims 27 and 39 (see, e.g., page 1, third paragraph, lines 6-10, and last paragraph spanning line 27 to page 2, lines 1-2; page 2, fourth full paragraph, lines 16-21, and last paragraph spanning line 25 to page 3, lines 1-2; page 3, first full paragraph, lines 3-5, and fifth full paragraph, lines 17-21; and page 4, fifth paragraph, lines 23-24 of Applicant's specification). It is respectfully submitted that, as rewritten, claim 39 now properly depends from independent claim 27.

The pending claims distinguish over the applied references, Pirovano et al (EP 0491069) and Yamagishi (USP 6,370,143), because Pirovano et al and Yamagishi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a method of transmitting messages over a communications network for conditionally updating a plurality of databases which is totally unidirectional. For example, independent claim 27, as amended, recites, among other limitations, transmitting identical messages without any database addressing from a managing center over a unidirectional connection to a plurality of distributed user databases and conditionally updating each distributed user terminal database separately according to the results of the searching of the useful data present in each distributed user database, with no return message sent from the databases to the managing center regarding the performing of the conditional updating.

By contrast, Pirovano et al does not even teach a method of transmitting messages for conditionally updating a plurality of databases. The Examiner concedes as much. See, page 5 of the office action. Moreover, Pirovano et al teaches the use of addressed messages, stating at pages 2, lines 57 through page 3, line 1 that in achieving selective transmission,
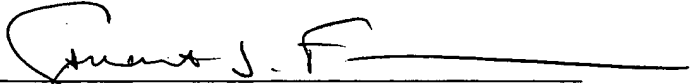
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"each end-user [is] identified by a different unique identifier." Again at page 5, lines 32-33, Pirovano et al expressly states that in making the selective connection the NCR packet carries "the address" of the terminal. Thus, it should be appreciated that Pirovano et al does <u>not</u> teach providing identical messages without database addressing, wherein the message is received by all network user terminal databases. In his response to applicant's arguments, the Examiner agrees, stating at page 2 of the office action that "Pirovano et al teaches databases addressing which can include general, random and other form of database addressing." As a consequence, it is clear that whatever form of addressing Pirovano et al uses, he does <u>not</u> <u>disclose</u> transmitting identical messages without any database addressing as is required by Claim 27.

The Examiner cites Yamagishi for his teaching of conditional updating. However, Yamagishi does not perform conditional updating by a method or system which is totally unidirectional. Rather, Yamagishi utilizes return messages from the databases to the managing center and, thus, his attainment of conditional updating is bi-directional. Claim 27 now recites a method wherein there are no return messages from the databases to the managing center regarding the performing of conditional updating. Accordingly, there is no combination of Pirovano et al and Yamagishi which disclose, teach or suggest a method of transmitting messages over a communications network for conditionally updating a plurality of databases which is <u>unidirectional</u>. For this reason independent claim 27 and dependent claims 29-31 and 39 are allowable over Pirovano et al in view of Yamagishi.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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